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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Serial No.: 09/900,881

Group No.: 1724

Inventors: Bikson et al.

Filed: 07/10/2001

Title: INTERNAL HOLLOW FIBER MEMBRANE GAS DRYER AND FILTRATION DEVICE Examiner: Spitzer

Box Non-fee Amendment  
Hon. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, DC 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Please amend the application as follows:

In the claims:

Please add new claim 34:

- B1
34. The process of claim 1, further comprising draining the permeated water vapor a waste fluid from said casing.

Please amend claims 1 and 28:

- B2
1. (Once amended) A gas purification process comprising:
- a) passing a feed gas stream containing water vapor through at least one filtration element adopted to suspended matter from said incoming feed gas passing therethrough,
  - b) contacting the filtered feed gas with a multiplicity of hollow fiber membranes contained in a cartridge, permeating a portion of the water vapor contained in the feed gas stream through the membranes, and
  - c) recovering the main remaining nonpermeate dehydrated and filtered gas stream wherein said filtration element and said hollow fiber membrane cartridge are disposed around a common longitudinal axis and are enclosed in a common casing.